AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 15, line 35, add the following new paragraph:

Brief Description of the Drawings

Delete the paragraph spanning lines 36-37 of page 15 and insert the following new paragraph therefor:

~~Figure 1 illustrates~~Figures 1A and 1B illustrate the plasmids used in the production of mutants in accordance with the invention.

Delete the paragraph spanning lines 4-5 of page 16 and insert the following new paragraph therefor:

~~Figure 3 shows~~Figures 3A-3H show the results of thermostability experiments on various luciferase mutants;

Delete the paragraph spanning line 29 on page 16 and insert the following therefor:

1 µl ~~Biotaq~~™ BIOTAQ (thermostable) DNA polymerase (5U)

Delete the paragraph spanning lines 18-23 on page 17 and insert the following therefor:

The PCR products were purified from the reaction mix using a Clontech ~~Advantage~~™ ADVANTAGE PCR-pure kit. An aliquot of the purified products was then

digested with the restriction enzymes NdeI and XhoI. The digested PCR products were then "cleaned up" with the ~~Advantage~~ ADVANTAGE kit and ligated into the vector pET23a which had been digested with the same enzymes.

Delete the paragraph spanning lines 1-3 of page 18 and insert the following therefor:

The ligated DNAs were then purified using the ~~Advantage~~™ ADVANTAGE kit and then electroporated into electrocompetent *E. coli* HB101 cells (1mm cuvettes, 1.8 Kv).

Delete the paragraph on line 23 of page 19 and insert the following therefor:

1 µ1 ~~Biotaq~~™ BIOTAQ (thermostable) DNA polymerase (5U)

Delete the paragraph spanning lines 1-6 on page 20 and insert the following therefor:

The PCR products were purified from the reaction mix using a Clontech ~~Advantage~~™ ADVANTAGE PCR-Pure kit. An aliquot of the purified products was then digested wit the restriction enzymes NdeI and XhoI. The digested PCR products were then "cleaned up" with the ~~Advantage~~™ ADVANTAGE kit and ligated into the vector pET23a, which had been digested with the same enzymes.